



May 31, 2011

Chairman Julius Genachowski
Commissioner Meredith Attwell Baker
Commissioner Mignon Clyburn
Commissioner Michael J. Copps
Commissioner Robert M. McDowell

Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

RE: WT Docket No. 11-65

Dear Chairman Genachowski and Commissioners:

The ASPIRA Association, a 501(C)(3) organization, is the only national Hispanic organization dedicated exclusively to developing the educational and leadership capacity of Hispanic youth. Since 1961, ASPIRA has been working at the grass-roots level to provide programs that encourage Hispanic students to stay in school, prepare them to succeed in the educational arena, develop their leadership skills, and to serve their community. It is organized in eight states and Puerto Rico and has extensive national presence through its partnerships with hundreds of regional, state and local education CBOs. We currently serve over 85,000 students each year through our ASPIRA Clubs in schools and our after-school education and guidance programs. ASPIRA is a very diverse organization working with substantial numbers of Puerto Ricans, Dominicans, Central Americans, Mexicans, and Cubans, as well as with African Americans, non-Hispanic whites, and Haitians, among others.

ASPIRA's core commitment is to invest in Latino youth, particularly the education of Latino youth. Education in recent years has been revolutionized by technology such as personal computers, smartboards, and e-readers. Now education is moving into an era dominated by wirelessly connected smartphones and tablets. The wireless connection is now becoming the critical link between hard work and success in Latino student's educational endeavors. The importance of wireless connections is why ASPIRA feels it necessary to submit its comments concerning the merger between T-Mobile and AT&T.

We believe that this merger will strengthen wireless connections between students, teachers, administrators and parents, enabling them to build an environment that is conducive to leadership development, educational opportunities in higher-learning and serving their community, all of which is necessary preparation for a successful future. Most importantly, these technological advancements, combined with stronger wireless connections, will help engage a much larger number of Latino youths, increasing graduation rates and ultimately moving towards eradicating the digital divide.

The technological advancement enabled by the merger of T-Mobile and AT&T cannot be understated. The combined company will be able to deploy 4G LTE (the most advanced wireless technology) to a reportedly 55 million additional U.S. residents, including many Latino youths in their prime learning years. Not only will this 4G LTE technology be widespread, but it will be faster, more capable and more reliable, providing students with the opportunity to engage in in-depth research, download course materials and homework, join online student communities and connect virtually with teachers. An educational community with this type of technology at its core will see its educational outcomes improve. Technology, and in particular wireless technology, is no longer a privilege, it is a necessity.

Several Hispanic organizations have raised issues related to the potential impact of the merger on the Hispanic community. These range from AT&T's commitment to adoption of wireless broadband, to fears of pricing increases, loss of jobs, and supplier diversity. We trust that you will take these into consideration. As an education organization, however, ASPIRA has been most concerned about two of them: promoting adoption of wireless broadband; and cost to consumers. Promoting adoption of wireless broadband is critical to ensuring that more of our youth and families have access to the educational resources that are increasingly being delivered on wireless devices so that we can have a level education playing field for Hispanic youth. Moreover, it is well documented that Hispanic youth and lower income families rely heavily on wireless communications and price increases in the future would have a disproportionate negative impact on Hispanic youth and families.

We have carefully reviewed AT&T's long history of commitment to the Hispanic community and have received information from AT&T regarding the merger and its potential short and longer term effects, specifically in the two areas mentioned. We are confident that the company's overall commitment to diversity and the Hispanic community will only be enhanced as a result of the merger. Moreover, it will bring this commitment to the new, much broader company, a commitment that T-Mobile has lacked. Specifically, AT&T has specifically committed to continue to promote adoption of broadband and has made a strong case that this type of merger has tended to reduce rather than raise the cost to consumers.

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ASPIRA sees tremendous technological and educational benefits for the Hispanic community flowing from the merger of T-Mobile and AT&T and is hopeful it will be approved swiftly by the Federal Communications Commission.

Warmest Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ronald Blackburn Moreno", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Ronald Blackburn Moreno
President and CEO